

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THREATS TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY FROM CUBAN DICTATORSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I have received extremely disturbing reports that the Department of Defense plans to officially minimize the threat assessment of Castro's Cuba and that this may be utilized to subsequently remove Castro from the State Department's terrorist list.

Despite Cuba's destroyed economic situation, Castro remains a dangerous and unstable dictator with the intention and capability to hurt U.S. interests. Thirty-five years ago, during the Cuban missile crisis, Castro urged a nuclear first strike by the Soviet Union against the United States. Ten years ago, Cuban General Rafael del Pino disclosed that Cuban combat pilots train for air strikes against military targets in South Florida.

Five years ago, a Cuban airforce defector in a MiG-29 fighter aircraft, flying undetected until outside Key West, Florida, confirmed that he had trained to attack the Turkey Point nuclear power facility in South Florida. Two years ago, Castro ordered Cuban MiG-29 fighter aircraft to attack and kill unarmed American civilians flying in international air space just miles from the United States.

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There is a pathologically unstable tyrant in the final years of his dictatorship just 90 miles from our shores. His 4-decade record of brutality, rabid hostility toward the Cuban exile community, anti-Americanism, support for international terrorism, and proximity to the United States, is an ominous combination.

When considering the potential threat from Castro, the following must be noted.

Despite the end of the Cold War, Castro continues to espouse a hard line, using apocalyptic rhetoric, proclaiming socialism or death, ranting about a final reckoning with the United States, and punishing any Cuban who advocates genuine political or economic reform.

Castro maintains one of Latin America's largest militaries with capabilities completely inconsistent with Cuba's economic reality and security needs.

Despite Cuba's economic failure, Castro has the capability to finance special projects through his network of criminal enterprises and billions of dollars of hard currency reserves that he maintains in hidden foreign accounts. Castro has a proven capability to penetrate U.S. airspace with military aircraft and to conduct aggressive shoot-

down operations in international airspace just outside the U.S.

Castro is training elite special forces in Vietnam who are prepared to attack U.S. military targets during a final confrontation, according to *Janes Defense Weekly*.

Castro actively maintains political and scientific exchanges with each of the countries on the Department of State's list of terrorist states. Castro continues to provide logistical support for international terrorism and pro-Castro guerrilla groups, and Cuban-trained international terrorists are still active around the world, most ominously at this time in Colombia.

Castro continues to coordinate and facilitate the flow of illegal drugs through Cuba into the United States. He continues to offer Cuba as a haven for drug smugglers, criminals and international terrorists, including more than 90 felony fugitives wanted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Lourdes electronic espionage facility is used to spy against U.S. military and economic targets, including the intercept, and this has been confirmed, of highly classified 1990 Persian Gulf battle plans. Castro is working with Russia, which recently extended a \$350 million line of credit to him for priority installations in Cuba, and anyone else willing to offer assistance to complete the nuclear reactor in Cuba.

Castro has access to all the chemical and biological agents necessary to develop germ and chemical weapons. Despite his failed economy, he has constructed a secretive network of sophisticated biotechnology labs, fully capable of developing chemical and biological weapons. These labs are operated by the military and Interior Ministry, are highly secure and off-limits to foreigners and visiting scientists. Under the guise of genetic, biological and pharmaceutical research, Castro is developing a serious germ and chemical warfare capability. He has the ability to deliver biological and chemical weapons with military aircraft, various unconventional techniques and perhaps even missile systems increasingly available in the international black market.

Tyrants are most dangerous when they are wounded. Given Cuba's proximity to the U.S. and Castro's proven instability, it would be an unacceptable and potentially tragic mistake to underestimate his capabilities. It is critical that Castro be kept on the State Department's list of terrorist states and that a realistic threat assessment be made, which includes an examination of Cuba's biotechnical capabilities as the Castro dictatorship moves towards its final stages.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, that we explain at this time what our embargo against Castro is and what it is not. We must counter the massive disinformation campaign by those who wish to lift the embargo against Castro. The way to do that is with the facts. Our embargo is an embargo

against U.S. credits, financing and mass tourism to Castro. It is not an embargo on medicine or humanitarian assistance.

These facts are necessary to be espoused and clarified. We will continue speaking on them in the coming days.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Cold War was about one thing: freedom.

As the communist tyrants of the Soviet Union tried to expand their evil form of repression around the world after World War II, the United States stepped up to the plate and said "no".

Why? Because it was the right thing to do. Yes, it was the right thing strategically. It was in our interest to contain Soviet military power. But more importantly, it was the right thing morally.

As the heroic dissidents and defectors from communist repression, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Andrei Sakharov, Vaclav Havel and many others told us, and as level-headed academics like Robert Conquest chronicled, and as the opening of the Soviet archives have proven definitively, communism has been the most destructive force in this century, responsible for more harm to more people in more places than any other.

That's why we waged the Cold War, Mr. Speaker. It was simply the right thing to do.

But now, with the Cold War long gone, some people, and certainly the people making foreign policy in the Clinton administration and in Europe, have forgotten all about morality in foreign policy. They have forgotten about doing the right thing.

We see it in the Clinton administration's shameless appeasement of Communist China, all because of the almighty dollar.

We see it in the administration's normalizing of relations with the Communist regimes of Vietnam and Laos, despite the fact that those very regimes killed, captured and have failed to account for thousands of young Americans.

We see it in the French drive to let Saddam Hussein off the hook, just so they can earn a few bucks. And we see it in the worldwide business as usual relationship with this awful tyrant in Havana named Fidel Castro.

Despite Castro's vicious dictatorship, despite his political prisons, despite his documented human rights abuses, despite his support for Marxist revolutionary movements around the world during the Cold War, the pernicious effects of which are still being felt in places like El Salvador and Nicaragua, our Canadian neighbors, our European friends and many other countries throughout the world serve to prop up Castro's repressive machine through trade.

It has devolved to America to continue to do the right thing by maintaining our trade embargo, Mr. Speaker.

And now there are some Americans, and perhaps even the Clinton administration, who want to copycat the immoral policies of Canada, Europe and countless dictatorships around the world by lifting the embargo.

What a tragic mistake that would be Mr. Speaker. What a terrible message that would send to those who languish in Castro's prisons, to those Cubans who long to cast a vote for their government for the first time in their lives.

It would tell them that their last hope, America, has abandoned them.

And what a terrible message that would send to Castro.

It would tell him that his arch-enemy, and Mr. Speaker, I consider it a badge of honor that the likes of Fidel Castro considers us his enemy, has capitulated.

And it would tell the rest of the world that we have abdicated our leadership role in the world.

Some in America say, "everybody else is doing it, so why not us"? "An embargo can't be effective if others won't join in."

Well, Mr. Speaker, copycatting the amoral, rudderless foreign policies of other nations is not leadership now, is it?

We should be exhorting, and using financial leverage, to induce other countries to join in. That's what Helms-Burton was all about, and it is a scandal that this President won't enforce the law!

And some say, "The embargo is propping Castro up by giving him an enemy."

What a ridiculous, a historical view that is.

If the embargo helps Castro, then why does he want it lifted?

And how many times do we have to repeat the fact that when Castro first seized power, the U.S. offered him assistance? And yet he still turned on us, because he is and always has been a Communist. Communists consider America the enemy, embargo or no embargo.

And Mr. Speaker, I am tired of those who say this embargo is not working.

What is not working is engagement, the business as usual engagement that the rest of the world is conducting with Castro as we speak.

It is their trade and aid dollars that are propping up Castro.

Just as our trade and aid dollars are propping up the Communist thugs in Beijing, and Hanoi, and now North Korea.

Everywhere we look Mr. Speaker, engagement has failed to mellow Communist dictators.

It has failed to improve human rights, it has failed to create widespread business opportunities and it has failed to rein in their foreign policies.

This is in stark contrast to Ronald Reagan's hard-line, rollback policies that helped bring down the Iron Curtain in Europe.

This is the policy we need now toward Fidel Castro.

Only his removal from power can lead to true improvement in Cuba. Anything less is a charade, and we have lived through these charades before.

It is time for this administration to get serious about removing Fidel Castro from power. It is time to apply the Helms-Burton law with full vigor.

If some of our so-called friends want to prop up this dictator longer, it is time for us to tell them they can kiss the most lucrative consumer market in the world goodbye.

That will surely bring them around, as their foreign policies are so dollar-dependent.

And if not, then so be it.

Let history record America as the country that did the right thing vis-à-vis an awful dictator in the Caribbean to the bitter end.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will

appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### MEXICO MAJOR SOURCE OF ILLICIT DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor this afternoon to announce that chemical warfare has been declared upon the United States of America. Some of my colleagues may be wondering what I mean by this statement that chemical warfare has in fact been inflicted upon the United States, but let me tell them the rest of the story.

In the entire Gulf War with the United States, Iraq took 148 American lives in battle. Let me give Members some statistics from 1992 to 1994 in the loss of life in the chemical war that has been declared upon the United States of America. There have been drug deaths during that period of time of 38,882. If we had the most up-to-date statistics through last year, we are probably looking at 60,000 Americans who have lost their lives because of drugs entering this country.

I ask my colleagues where most of the drugs are coming into this country. What is the source of the chemical warfare that has been declared upon our Nation? I tell them today that it is Mexico. The DEA confirms it. Everyone who has testified before my National Security subcommittee that oversees our policy on the narcotics issue has confirmed it, that Mexico is the source of illegal chemicals, drugs, coming into this country.

Many of those thousands of lives that have been lost in this chemical war are young people. Listen to the quantities of narcotics that are coming in from Mexico, and this administration and this President recently certified Mexico as compliant with attempts to eradicate drugs. Do Members know the source of 50 to 70 percent of the cocaine transiting into the United States, into their community? It is Mexico. Do they know where 30 percent of the heroin entering the United States into their community is coming from? It is coming from Mexico. Do they know where 70 percent of the foreign-grown marijuana which is produced and transited to the United States is coming from? It is Mexico.

The certification law that we have on the books is a simple law. It says our State Department and our President must confirm that a country is cooperating to eliminate drug trafficking and drug production. In fact, Mexico is not doing that. They are being certified to get benefits from the United States. They get benefits for foreign aid, for financial assistance, for military assistance and trade benefits. This is a simple certification process which Mexico has not complied with.

What has been their response? Their response has been to launch a chemical

war on the children and the people of the United States. The loss of life, the loss of our children's futures, the loss of civility and civil conduct in our community has been disrupted.

We have 2 million Americans behind bars. Our people are sleeping at night behind bars. Our elderly are confined to their homes behind bars, because 70 percent of those who are committing crimes are there because of a drug-related offense or drug abuse.

I submit that 50 percent of the hard drugs, and these are not my statistics, this is the DEA, the FBI and other Federal agencies confirm that 50 percent of the hard drugs, these chemical weapons, are coming into the United States from Mexico.

I urge my colleagues, all of my colleagues, to join me with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) in cosponsoring House Joint Resolution 114. Let us end this chemical warfare that has been declared upon our Nation and upon our children. I ask my colleagues to join us and cosponsor House Joint Resolution 114 and let us make a difference in the lives of our children and in the lives of our community and stop the drug warfare on this country.

#### CHILD CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month and would like to call special attention to the current status of child care in our country.

Today more parents work outside the home than ever before. More than 75 percent of mothers with children ages 6 through 17 are in the work force. More than 60 percent of mothers with children under the age of 6 are employed in addition. Changes in the welfare system set such strict work requirements, which means that parents must find jobs or leave public assistance.

Child care costs can be prohibitive. Consequently it was a reason why many mothers did not work. Currently full-day child care can cost between \$4,000 and \$10,000 per year. The expense of child care becomes even a greater issue of concern once we consider the fact that nearly half of the parents with young children earn \$35,000 a year or less. Even families with two working parents working full-time at minimum wage, the parents earn only about \$21,000 annually, and that is gross income.

The importance of quality child care cannot be ignored. Research shows that good child care programs can affect children's long-term success in school and their learning potential as adults. In addition, brain development research shows that an adverse environment in the first 3 years of life can compromise a child's brain function and overall development. With all of